pace Forbes, no reference to the species, not diminished by foreign writers; de Blainville's synonymy is most confusing, Agassiz was clearly in doubt as to what was *A. scutatum* and what *A. verrucosum*.

Müller and Troschel do not appear to have been satisfied with Forbes's description of "*A. scutatum*," and there can be no doubt that much confusion would result if that specific name were to be used; the term with which it is most often confounded is *verrucosum*, and that goes now that we know that it is synonymous with the *caput-medusæ* of Linnæus. *Scutatum*, then, should not usurp the place long occupied by the specific name given by Müller and Troschel.

Gorgonocephalus Linckii.

? *Astrophyton arborescens*, Penn. Brit. Zool. iv. (1777) p. 56 (non M. & Tr.).
? *Asterias caput-medusæ*, Turt. Brit. Faun. (1801) p. 140.
? *Astrophyton scutatum*, Flem. Brit. An. (1827) p. 489; Couch, Corn. Faun. i. (1838) p. 84 (non Gould, Inv. Mass. (1841) p. 345).
? *Euryale scutatum*, de Bl. Actin. (1834) p. 246.
Astrophyton scutatum, Forbes, Brit. Starf. (1840) p. 67 (non Agassiz, Mém. Soc. Neuch. ii. (1839), Notice &c., p. 11.
Astrophyton Linckii, M. & Tr. Syst. Ast. (1842) p. 122; Lyman, Ill. Cat. Mus. Zool. i. (1865) p. 190; Norman, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. xv. (1865) p. 105.
Gorgonocephalus Linckii, Lyman, Chall. Rep. xiv. (1882) p. 264; Hoyle, Proc. R. Phys. Soc. Edinb. viii. (1885) p. 138.

XLV.—*Remarks on the Genus* Heterolepis, *Smith.*

By G. A. Boulenger.

Although specimens of the West-African *Heterolepis poensis* have been frequently received during the forty years that have elapsed since the establishment, by Andrew Smith, of this curious genus of Snakes, the type species, *H. capensis*, remained one of the British Museum's most important desiderata. I was therefore extremely pleased to receive a few days ago, through the kindness of Mr. Trimen and Mr. Péringuey, of the South-African Museum, a specimen from Delagoa Bay, consisting of the head and anterior part of the body and the tail, of what I take to be the long-desired *H. capensis*.

This specimen agrees so well with Peters's *H. Gueinzii*, from Port Natal, that I entertain no doubt as to the identity of the two. The late Prof. Peters felt in fact very doubtful as to the propriety of separating *H. Gueinzii* from *H. capensis*,

which was only known to him from Smith's description and figure. The latter is probably incorrect; it is at any rate in contradiction with the text, in which the number of labials is stated to be seven, as in *H. Gueinzii* and the specimen from Delagoa Bay. The difference in the number of ventral shields (241, Smith; 203, Peters) and subcaudals (61, Smith; 51, Peters) cannot be regarded as outside the limit of variation which we may expect in any snake *. And I agree with Dr. Mocquard in suspecting the middle dorsal keel described and figured by Peters to be due to the projection of the neural spines. Smith gives as the habitat of his *H. capensis* "the eastern districts of the Cape Colony." The same species is recorded by Peters (Mon. Berl. Ac. 1876, p. 119) from the Ogowé, whence it has also been received by the Paris Museum, for I regard Mocquard's *H. Savorgnani* as a *H. capensis* in which the upper postocular has become fused with the supraocular. The specimen figured by Mocquard further agrees with the Delagoa-Bay specimen in the manner in which the enlarged vertebral scales begin on the occiput.

Perusal of Dr. Mocquard's paper on *Heterolepis* (Bull. Soc. Philom. 7, xi. 1887, p. 5) further suggests to me a few remarks:—

1. *Simocephalus Grantii*, Gthr., is not a *Heterolepis*. It differs in not having the maxillary and dentary bones angularly bent inwards anteriorly, in its subequal teeth, the anterior being but slightly longer than the posterior, the presence of apical scale-pits, and the absence of ventral keels. Although it has a præocular distinct from the loreal and only 15 rows of scales (19 on the neck), I feel disposed to refer it to Mocquard's genus *Gonyonotus* (Bull. Soc. Philom. 8, i. 1889, p. 146). The two species differ as follows:—

G. Brussauxi, Mocq.—Loreal and præfrontal entering the eye; temporals 2+2; eight upper labials, fourth and fifth entering the eye. Scales strongly keeled, in 21 rows.

G. Grantii, Gthr.—A loreal and a præocular; temporals 1+2; seven upper labials, third and fourth entering the eye. Scales rather feebly keeled, in 15 rows.

2. *Heterolepis glaber*, Jan, also belongs to a different genus, *Hormonotus*, Hallow., distinguished from *Heterolepis* by the large eye, the compressed body, and the smooth scales. The synonymy of the unique species is as follows:—

* The specimen from Delagoa Bay has only 45 subcaudals.

Hormonotus modestus.

Lamprophis modestus, Dum. & Bibr. 1854.
Hormonotus audax, Hallow., 1857.
Hormonotus modestus, Günther, 1862.
Heterolepis glaber, Jan, 1863.
Boodon (*Lamprophis*) *modestus*, Peters, 1875.
Boodon (*Alopecion*) *Vossii*, Fischer, 1888.

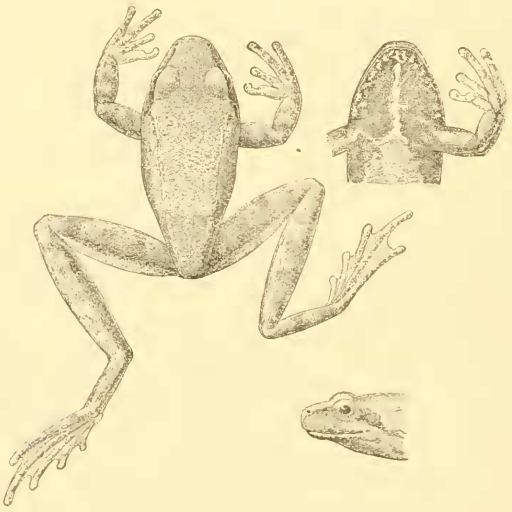
3. *Heterolepis poensis*, Smith.—I am glad to say the type specimen is not lost. It is still in the British Museum, where it was registered in April 1847. The fact that its tail is mutilated accounts for the small number (67) of subcaudal shields. The *H. bicarinatus* of Duméril and Bibron (1854) is merely a synonym of *H. poensis*, Smith (1847).

XLVI.—*Description of a new European Frog.*

By G. A. Boulenger.

Rana græca, sp. n.

Head a little broader than long, moderately depressed. Snout very short, rounded, not at all prominent, as long as the diameter of the eye; loreal region even less oblique than



in *R. temporaria* and *R. iberica*, very distinctly concave; nostril a little nearer the end of the snout than to the eye;